(b) if so, the steps teken to draft the new National Policy on Science and Technology;

(c) the salient features of the new ideas proposed to be incorporated in the new National Policy on Science and Technology; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) to (d).

The Scientific Policy Resolution, 1958 and the Technology Policy Statement, 1983 contain the basic framework of Government's policy on Science & Technology. However, in keeping with rapid scientific and technology advancements in the world and in terms of India's short term, medium term and long term requirements, Science and Technology policies are continually reshaped and remodeled through a variety of interventions, administrative and fiscal.

The various scientific and technology bodies such as academies, professional institutions and scientific fora also provide inputs in the formulation of S&T policies. The Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet and the Consultative Group of Eminent Scientists and the Consultative Group of Government departments/agencies on S&T also consider various elements of Science and Technology Policy.

Within the above mentioned broad framework, the Science & Technology policy and programme are continually reviewed and updated for implementation so as to adjust to the developments and trends in Science & Technology world over as well as the short term, medium term and long term national interests.

Projects under technology vision 2020

1544. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have increased current year's budget allocation for Science and Technology by more than 20 percent as compared to last year;

(b) what are the details of a new Millennium technology initiative launched under 'Technology Vision 2020" till date;

(c) how many projects till date, identified/put-on fast tract under "Jai Vigyan Mission"; and

(d) with which countries India is sharing/seeking cooperation/ signed agreements for setting up Science and Technology fora?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) Government have increased current year's allocation for Science and Technology by 17.31% compared to last year;

(b) Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) is carrying out specific missions and programmes identified in Technology Vision 2020 in the following six areas *viz.* Agriculture and agro food sector; road construction and transport equipment, upgradation of textile machinery; services and maintenance of healthcare equipment; upgradation of science & engineering colleges; and targeted programmes in other important areas such as electric power, systems of rural connectivity and small &. medium enterprises, etc;

(c) Twenty one projects have been identified under Jai Vigyan Mission; and

(d) India has S&T cooperation agreements with 54 countries. Formal institutional fora for cooperation and taking up collaborative projects exist with Russia and France. An agreement has also been signed with the USA on March 21, 2000 for the establishment of an Indo-US Science and Technology Forum.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.